

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ERDA-05

ACDA-07 OMB-01 OES-06 /073 W

----- 054030

P R 090502Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1820

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WELLINGTON 2981

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, NZ

SUBJ: NPW PORT ENTRY TO NEW ZEALAND

REF: STATE 180932

1. SUMMARY. THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND HAS RESPONDED IN A POSITIVE WAY TO EACH OF THE POINTS OF CLARIFICATION WHICH WE RAISED FROM THE "NEW ZEALAND CODE FOR NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPPING." THEY HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE TRUXTON VISIT WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF AUGUST 9 CABINET MEETING, FOLLOWING WHICH A "GO AHEAD" WILL BE GIVEN.
END SUMMARY.7:

2. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTTEL, AREAS OF DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS FROM THE "NEW ZEALAND CODE FOR NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPPING" WERE RAISED INFORMALLY WITH THE RNZN AND FORMALLY WITH THE MFA. MFA TOOK THE ISSUES UNDER ADVISEMENT AND HAS NOT DELIVERED A COORDINATED GONZ RESPONSE AS
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FOLLOWS: QUOTE.

(A) REACTOR POWER LEVELS:

THE INTENTION OF THE CODE IS TO LIMIT ACCEPTANCE OF NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIPS TO THOSE WHICH HAVE REACTOR POWER LEVELS OF LESS THAN 100 MW (THERMAL), PER REACTOR.

THE REASON FOR SUCH A LIMITATION IS THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO RELATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE REFERENCE ACCIDENT, DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 5.2 OF ANNEX 3 OF THE CODE, TO REACTOR POWER. THE ADMISSION OF NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIPS FITTED WITH REACTORS WITH A POWER SIGNIFICANTLY IN EXCESS OF 100 MW (THERMAL) WOULD ALTER THE WHOLE BASIS OF THE CODE, AND THUS THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF BERTHS, ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

WHILST IT IS REALIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO STATE THE SIZE OF THE NUCLEAR REACTORS ON UNITED STATES NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS, IT WILL BE AWARE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE BY VARIOUS MEANS TO ARRIVE AT REASONABLE ESTIMATES.

EACH APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION OF A NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIP WILL BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS. IF AT SOME LATER DATE IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO ALLOW FOR REACTORS OF A SIZE SIGNIFICANTLY IN EXCESS OF 100 MW (THERMAL), AS WELL AS THOSE BELOW THIS POWER, EXPANSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE CODE WOULD BE REQUIRED.

(B) BERTHING,

THE INFERENCE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS CORRECT. IF CATEGORY A OR B BERTHS WERE REQUESTED THE APPROPRIATE SPECIAL CONDITION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BE MET. (EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS REFERS TO DEPARTMENT'S ASSUMPTION PARA 4 REFTEL THAT "IT WOULD APPEAR WE ARE LIMITED TO CATEGORY C BERTHS." WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THESE GNZ CATEGORY C BERTHS ARE ACCEPTABLE AND HAVE BEEN CLEARED FOR U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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NPWS. END COMMENT.)

(C) SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

THE "SPECIAL CONDITION" IN PARAGRAPH 3.1 (D) OF THE CODE REFERS TO THOSE REQUIRED FOR CATEGORY A AND B BERTHS AS GIVEN IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF ANNEX 1 OF THE CODE. HOWEVER, MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THE CODE APPLIES TO ALL TYPES OF NUCLEAR-

POWERED SHIPS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT OTHER SPECIAL

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ERDA-05

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P R 090502Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1821

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WELLINGTON 2981

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

CTNDITIONS COULD BE IMPOSED IN SOME
SPECIFIC INSTANCES.

IT IS NOT ENVISAGED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE
WOULD BE A REQUIREMENT TO IMPOSE ANY OTHER
SUCH SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN THE CASE OF UNITED
STATES NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS.

IF AT SOME LATER DATE A CATEGORY A OR B BERTH
WAS REQUESTED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT,
A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT TO MEET THE SPECIAL
CONDITION RELATED TO THE CATEGORY WOULD BE
REQUIRED, IN ADDITION TO THE "STANDARD
STATEMENT".

(D) CONDITION OF SHIP'S NUCLEAR PLANT: (EMBASSY'S
HEADING) QUOTE THE "STANDARD STATEMENT" IS
ACCEPTED AS MEETING THE REQUIREMENT OF SUB-

PARAGRAPH 3 A. AND B. HW THE CODE.

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(E) ROUTINE MONITORING:

THE COMPETENT NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES ARE WELL AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY AND CAUSES OF ERRONEOUS READINGS FROM CERTAIN TYPES OF RADIATION MONITORING INSTRUMENTS. THEY WILL CARRY OUT MONITORING AS THEY SEE FIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MONITORING POLICY DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 9 OF ANNEX 3 OF THE CODE. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT THIS INCLUDES AIR, SEA WATER, AND BOTTOM SEDIMENT SAMPLING.

(F) ACCIDENT REPORTING:

THE ASSURANCE GIVEN IN THE "STANDARD STATEMENT" IN RESPECT OF THIS MATTER IS ACCEPTABLE TO

THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT. THIS IS TAKEN TO MEAN THAT THE HARBORMASTER OR NAVAL AUTHORITY WILL BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS SITUATION. UNQUOTE.

3. AT CONFUSION OF FORMAL RESPONSE MFA DEFENSE DIVISION HEAD ATKINS SAID THAT THE AUGUST 9 CABINET MEETING WOULD TAKE UP NPW VISITS AND SPECIFICALLY THE TRUXTUN VISIT. ATKINS SAID THAT WHILE PRIME MINISTER

MULDOON HAS INDICATED THAT HE WANTS TO KEEP THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE TRUXTUN VISIT SECRET UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT TO MINIMIZE OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATIONS, A "GO AHEAD" IS EXPECTED TO BE COMMUNICATED TO THE USG FOR THE TRUXTUN'S SAILING FOLLOWING THE CABINET MEETING. (COMMENT: THIS INFORMATION WAS ALSO PASSED TO ALUSNA BY HIS RNZN CONTACT. END COMMENT.)

4. EMBOFF NOTED THE TESTINESS OF THE "ROUTINE MONITORING" PORTION OF THE GONZ RESPONSE AND AGAIN ASSURED ATKINS THAT THE USG WAS RAISING THESE ISSUES ONLY TO INSURE CLARITY BEFORE THE VISITS BEGAN. ATKINS SAID THE GONZ APPRECIATED THAT BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE A NEED FOR A CONTINUATION

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OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS OF THIS TYPE. HE SAID THE GONZ HAS MADE A DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH NPW VISITS AND WOULD LIKE TO GET ONE SUCH VISIT UNDER ITS BELT WITHIN THE "CODE" AS NOW WRITTEN. IF CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATE A NEED FOR "CODE" REVISIONS LATER ON, THEY WILL BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS WITH THE USG. HE SAID HE WAS MAKING THIS COMMENT IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND CLARIFICATION WITH WHICH THE USG HAD RAISED THE ISSUES.

5. COMMENT: WITHIN AN HOUR OF RECEIPT OF REFTEL, ALUSNA HAD OCCASION TO CALL ON CAPTAIN NELSON, RNZN, WHO IS RNZN REPRESENTATIVE ON PANEL WHICH WROTE "NEW ZEALAND CODE" AEC 500. NELSON'S IMMEDIATE BUT INFORMAL RESPONSES TO THE ISSUES RAISED WERE NEARLY IDENTICAL TO THE FORMAL REPLY NOW DELIVERED BY MFA. IN THE AREA OF RADIATION MONITORING, NELSON GAVE HIS ADDITIONAL ASSURANCE THAT ALUSNA WOULD BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED IN THE EVENT ANY SUSPICIOUS AND UNEXPECTED ABERRATIONS IN THE AMBIENT LEVELS WERE DISCOVERED. EMBASSY FEELS THAT THESE GONZ REPLIES ARE POSITIVE AND HELPFUL. WE HAVE MADE POINT OUTLINED PARA 6 OF REFTEL BUT SHARE GONZ'S HOPE THAT TRUXTUN VISIT CAN NOW GO FORWARD BEFORE ANY MORE CLARIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED. END COMMENT.)
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Message Attributes

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